

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending and stand rejected. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Application 2004/0264947A1 to Okada. The rejections as they may apply to the claims presented herein are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112 because of a lack of antecedent basis for the term “delete flag”. Claim 8 has been amended to recite “ending flag,” which has the required antecedent basis.

Turning now to the art-based rejections, claims 1-16 were rejected as being anticipated by Okada under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Okada describes a system where optical disk data is recorded in segments. As shown in FIG. 6a of Okada, a video stream includes a logical structure that is arranged according to six levels. At a first and highest level, the entire video stream is illustrated. At the second level, the video stream is divided into a plurality of units called GOPs and the GOP units include picture data. The audio stream is shown divided into 2k units at the third level. The GOP units are interleaved with audio data at the fourth level to form a pack sequence. This pack sequence is divided into a plurality of Video Object Units (VOBUs), which are illustrated at the fifth level. The Video Object (VOB) shown at the sixth level includes the plurality of VOBUs placed in a time series. See Okada, FIG. 6a and paragraph 220.

Okada describes that only fixed, predefined VOBUs can be deleted from the VOB. Any unit less than a VOB can not be deleted (“The partial deletion of the VOB refers to the deletion of a plurality of VOBUs....” Okada, paragraph 367). Further, as taught by Okada, the user must specify by number the VOBUs desired to be deleted. Okada, paragraph 373. In other words, deletions occur “on the fly” without the need or use for additional data structures or programming elements (e.g., flags or memory lists).

Okada also teaches that data can be organized into cells and that informational tables (i.e., PGC information tables) can be used to store this information such as cell beginning and ending times. Okada, paragraphs 820-825. Commands such as a split command or a shorten command can be also applied to the cell data and cells can be deleted. Okada, paragraph 878. However, as with the other structures mentioned in Okada, only an entire cell (containing a plurality of VOBUs) can be deleted. Additionally, all cell deletions are made “on the fly”

without the use of additional data structures or programming elements.

Amended claim 1 recites providing and storing in a memory a free memory list for the electronic storage medium. A portion of a file stored on the electronic storage medium is selected. The selected portion of the file is added to the free memory list.

In contrast, Okada is silent as to the provision and storage of a separate list of free memory space in a memory as recited in claim 1. To the contrary, Okada teaches an approach where memory space is freed and reallocated “on the fly” without the use of any type of memory list.

Since elements of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Okada, it is submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Okada. Claims 2-7 depend upon claim 1. Since claim 1 is allowable, it is submitted that claims 2-7 are also allowable.

Amended claim 8 recites storing a media file on a memory of the personal video recorder. A signal for marking a starting flag for the media file is received and the starting flag indicates a starting point located anywhere in the media. A signal for marking an ending flag for the media file is received and the ending flag indicates an ending point located anywhere in the media. The memory of the personal video recorder that contains a portion of the media file between the starting flag and the flag is freed.

In contrast, with the Okada system, VOBUs are specified by the user, deleted, and memory space reallocated “on the fly” without using flags. Even assuming flags were somehow used in Okada, Okada does not teach or suggest the use of any type of marker that can indicate a point located anywhere in the media. To the contrary, any unit smaller than a VOB cannot be indicated or deleted as mentioned above.

Since elements of claim 8 are not taught or suggested by Okada, it is submitted that claim 8 is not anticipated by Okada. Claims 9-12 depend upon claim 8. Since claim 8 is allowable, it is submitted that claims 9-12 are allowable.

Amended claim 13 recites searching for a start program time stamp marking a starting point located anywhere in a video file. A search is performed for the first full image frame related to the start program time stamp. A search is performed for an end program time stamp marking an ending point located anywhere in the video file. A search is performed for a second full image frame related to the end program time stamp. A portion of the video file between the first full image frame and the second full image frame is deleted.

In contrast, Okada discloses a complicated arrangement where a plurality of sets of

picture data is organized into cells (that include multiple VOBUs). Sets of cell information including presentation start time information and presentation end time information are also maintained. See Okada, paragraph 30 and FIG. 73 of Okada. However, the presentation start time information must specify the beginning of a cell and cannot indicate a location within a cell. Similarly, the presentation end time information can only specify the end of a cell and not a point within the cell. Consequently, Okada does not teach or suggest the use of time stamps that specify points located anywhere in the media as recited in claim 13.

Since elements of claim 13 are not taught or suggested by Okada, it is submitted that claim 13 is not anticipated by Okada. Claims 14-16 depend upon claim 13. Since claim 13 is allowable, it is submitted that claims 14-16 are allowable.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

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